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ABSTRACT

A National Institute of Education (NIE) statement of policy and procedures is presented regarding administering institutional contracts and grants with regional educational laboratories and research and development centers during fiscal years 1983 and 1984. Definitions are presented of regional educational laboratories and research and development centers. It is noted that NIE will work closely with each laboratory and center to help make its board adequately representative and effective, and to help develop plans for achieving the institutional goals. Attention is also briefly directed to the laboratory's and center's role in developing programmatic activities. In addition, it is suggested that institutional activities should be identified as specific projects with their own scopes of work and deliverables, or as clearly specified subparts of programmatic activities. An explanation of the term of contracts and grants awarded under this policy is provided. It is noted that to maintain funding continuity during fiscal years 1983 to 1984, each laboratory and center (with two exceptions) is to submit a 2-year proposal based on its 1982 level of funding. (SW)

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The National Institute of Education
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This is a statement of the National Institute of Education's policy and procedures for administering institutional contracts and grants with Regional Educational Laboratories and Research and Development Centers during FY 1983 and FY 1984.

I. Definitions

A. Regional Educational Laboratories

The central purpose of a regional educational laboratory is to determine and help meet educational research and development needs in a specific region of the country. A laboratory's programmatic priorities should be determined through strong, regionally representative, and active governance structures and through systematic assessments of its region's needs. NIE will work closely with each laboratory to help make its board adequately representative and effective as a mechanism for regional accountability, and to help develop plans for achieving the laboratory's goals.

B. Research and Development Centers

The central purpose of a center is to provide national research leadership on an educational problem area that NIE has specified to be of national importance. Each center is responsible for establishing strategies and programs in pursuit of its mission through consultation with scholars and practitioners in its field and in collaboration with NIE staff. While each center's formal governing responsibility rests with its host institution, each center should have a strong, active advisory board which includes leading scholars and consumers of scholarship in the center's field. NIE will work closely with each center to help make its advisory board representative and effective, and to help develop plans for achieving the center's goals.

II. Functions

A. Programmatic Activities

Each laboratory and center is expected to develop and propose programmatic activities designed to accomplish its mission. The topics of each institution's programmatic activities should be determined through the priority-setting activities it conducts with its board, and through appropriate needs analyses and consultation activities.

B. Institutional Activities

Institutional activities should be conducted by laboratories and centers to enable them to function effectively as cohesive

institutions (rather than as collections of unrelated projects). Institutional activities should be identified as specific projects with their own scopes of work and deliverables, or as clearly specified subparts of programmatic activities.

III. Proposals

Proposals for NIE funding of programmatic and institutional activities should be developed by each laboratory and center in consultation with the Director to determine whether the proposed activities are consistent with the education research and dissemination activities conducted by the Institute. NIE Staff will continue to work collaboratively with each institution as an institution.

IV. Term

The two-year contracts and grants awarded under this policy are intended to assure the completion of 5 years of work that was begun in most cases in FY 1980 [the Center for Education Policy Management (CEPM) and the Wisconsin Center for Education Research (WCER) began in FY 1981]. At the end of this period (in most cases November 30, 1984) these contracts and grants will expire (grants to CEPM and WCER will expire on November 30, 1985), and NIE will have no continuing obligation to award funds to these 17 laboratories and and centers under (1) these contracts and grants, (2) this statement of policy and procedures, (3) any antecedent contracts or grants, (4) the 1979 version of NIE's administrative policy and procedures entitled: "Long-Term Special Institutional Agreements with the Seventeen Existing Laboratories and Centers," or (5) any existing provision of law.

V. Funding

To maintain funding continuity during FY 1983 and FY 1984 each laboratory and center (with the exception of CEPM and WCER) has been asked to submit a two year proposal based on its FY 1982 level of funding (CEPM and WCER will submit two-year proposals for FY 1984 and FY 1985, based on FY 1983 funding). Negotiations for FY 1983 - 1984 awards will be based on the projected budgets in these proposals and on the expectation that NIE will continue to receive appropriations at its current level of $53 million. As long as NIE continues to receive funding at this level, it will maintain the negotiated levels of support for FY 1983 and FY 1984, based on acceptable proposals and performance from the laboratories and centers. If NIE should receive a lower appropriation during this two-year period, it may be necessary to make proportionate adjustments in the levels of laboratory and center funding.